

# Foundations of Ecology Graduate Seminar

(EEOB 8896.04-20; Call #38222; 2 credit hours)

## Autumn Semester 2023

Mondays (12:30-2:30 PM in 124 Research Center, 1314 Kinnear Rd.)

### Instructor: Dr. Stuart Ludsin

Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology

The purpose of this seminar is to introduce students to critical concepts and advances in the field of ecology. Towards this end, students will read papers from the peer-reviewed literature, both old and new. These papers will center on important foundational concepts in behavioral, population, community and ecosystem ecology (e.g., adaptationist program, life-history evolution, competition, predation, disturbance, food webs, biodiversity, spatial and temporal scale, ecosystem resilience, global change), and how they have changed during the past century or so, as well as why. These discussions should help us understand the emergence of more contemporary topics in ecology such as metabolic theory, metacommunities, regime shifts, and ecological epigenetics among other things, as well as how the methods used in ecology have evolved through time.

We will meet weekly for a 2-hour discussion on Monday afternoons during the entire semester. During each meeting, we will discuss a single topic, which will be based on 1-2 readings from the peer-reviewed literature. Discussions each week will be facilitated by 1-2 students depending on class size.

Feel free to contact Stuart Ludsin ([ludsin.1@osu.edu](mailto:ludsin.1@osu.edu)), if you have any questions about the course or suggestions about potential topics to cover (or papers to read).

